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THE YAQUI DELTA.

A Remarkable Record of Growth and
Improvement in That Great Region.

Recently THE OASIS editor visited the great Yaqui delta, and while he was aware of the fact that since reorganization of the enterprise last year and the introduction into the management of the company of men of strong financial standing and wide experience with unlimited capital there had been a great deal accomplished since inauguration of the new management in February last, he was surprised to find how much had been accomplished, and how much more is in hand and shaping so rapidly that speedy completion is assured. There have been completed the new canal extension, eleven miles long, on which work was begun two years ago, but had proceeded slowly, suffering long periods of suspension, together with no less than twenty-seven miles of primary laterals; and within three months, so water for irrigation the coming season may be available all over the great area beneath the new extension, there will be finished as many more miles of secondary and tertiary laterals; a new ice plant with a daily capacity of five tons has been installed at Esperanza, the company's townsite on the railway, also a machine shop and garage, and there is en route from the factory in the United States machinery for an electric lighting plant that will be installed at the same place; construction has been begun upon a structure, 40x80 feet in dimensions, which will be completed and in use within three months, that is designed especially for a hospital and is planned for equipment as one of the most completely appointed institutions of the kind anywhere; work has commenced upon a large hotel at La Yaqui, the new townsite down below the far end of the new canal extension mentioned; and many minor matters that will not be included in the enumeration made in this sentence.

To accomplish all that has been done and to carry to completion the plans in hand has taken a small army of men, lumber and material by trainloads and investment of a small fortune in machinery. At work upon the canal and laterals there have been employed four great traction engines with grading machines, beside several large plow and scraper outfits and there is now en route from the factory in California the fifth traction engine—a heavy, 60-H. P. machine, with two graders, both of which it will operate simultaneously, throwing daily a thousand cubic yards of earth. A shipload of lumber and timbers from Puget Sound was landed at Guaymas recently and transported by rail to Cajeme, the railway station nearest the canal extension where it was unloading at the time of the visit giving the station ground the semblance of a lumber yard.

To complete the "unit," as is called the canal extension of eleven miles mentioned, there will be

added forty-nine miles of lateral ditches, of which twenty-seven are completed, one hundred miles of secondary laterals, and 375 miles of tertiary laterals. The laterals are taken out from the canal at right angles and are about two and one-half miles apart, the space between embracing two of the lines of 1000-acre blocks into which the land is subdivided; the secondary laterals will be at right angles to the laterals, and the tertiary will lead off at right angles from the secondary, the system when completed leading water upon the smallest subdivision of land beneath the canal "unit,"—of which there are 84,000 acres that will be covered by the work now in hand.

Included in the new work projected, which will be undertaken and put through to completion next fall and winter will be construction of a new intake two and one-half miles up the river from Los Hornos, where are located the dam and headgates now in use. At Los Hornos while the massive headgates are set into solid rock

thousand of them not more than an inch or two in height. They will be set out on the fall and will be irrigated by water pumped from the canal, at a bend in which close to the end of the land there will be installed a pumping station. The gentlemen associated in the enterprise are A. Campbell Johnson, E. W. Barry, E. S. Strafford, Arthur and William Bouring, all successful and experienced orange growers. The railway passes along one side the area that will be planted, and through a distance of several miles travellers on passing trains will be regaled with the sight of a thrifty and beautiful orange grove.

At Ontogota Mr. and Mrs. Z. O. Stocker are building a very handsome and commodious bungalow that will be one of the most convenient and comfortable residences in the delta. It will be 72x50 feet in outside dimensions, and upon three sides the structure will be surrounded by a gallery twelve feet in width that will be enclosed with wire screens. Two broad corridors will traverse the house in-

the valley want to see Ontogota, and a hotel at that point is a very necessary convenience.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Sexton who have made their home at Ontogota some eleven years, and have been isolated practically in nearly all that time, are getting many neighbors from the influx of people coming into the vicinity, buying land and establishing homes. Within a year they have seen growing up around their fine place quite a colony of American settlers. Among the new comers may be named Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McGuffin, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Patten, from Pomona, California; Mr. and Mrs. S. Piezzi, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Franchi, Mr. and Mrs. John Goodman, Mr. John Goodman Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle, Mr. Roy Tuttle, all from Santa Rosa, California; Mr. and Mrs. William Peterson, Mr. Alex Peterson, Mr. Cuddis and Mr. Jake Lewis, all from Watsonville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lovering, and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Clever. Many other families are expected to locate in the vicinity of Ontogota in the coming winter.

Don Pedro Chisem has sold to the Richardson Construction Company all of his extensive holdings in the Yaqui delta in the vicinity of Ontogota, including some 10,000 or 12,000 acres of the finest land in the valley, with all of his holdings, machinery, animals etc. In the deal there go a traction engine and gang plows, about 125 mules, threshing machines and everything that goes to make a well appointed farm upon a large scale. The land was bought by Mr. Chisem from the old Sonora & Sinaloa Land Company when the enterprise was in its infancy a quarter of a century ago, and at that time he got it very cheap. To his original investment in the land Mr. Chisem has added many thousand dollars that have been put into buildings, machinery, animals, etc. Now the gentleman has sold it all for a fortune to express which in dollars will run away into handsome figures.

As has been stated in THE OASIS heretofore out in the new region that will be opened to settlement by the new "unit" in the canal pushing now toward completion, the Richardson Company have laid out two towns—"Yaqui," and "Delta." The first named is about thirty miles southwest from the home town of Esperanza on the railroad. The site has been cleared and a good, substantial hotel is in course of erection and will be completed in time to cater to the crowds that will come next winter to buy lands. And a store will be established. Delta is some ten or twelve miles westward from Yaqui. A hotel and store will be installed at Delta as soon as needed.

But this screed is lengthening and will have to be cut shortly. During the visit at Esperanza THE OASIS man and his son were entertained hospitably by Mr. E. G. Sinnard, the local manager for the Richardson Construction Company, and Mrs. Sinnard, who arrived from Tehama county, California, in April—Mr. Sinnard having come in advance of the lady in February.

(Concluded on page 4)



TRACTION ENGINE WORKING WITH GRADER.

and upon that bank of the river the weir has the same rock foundation, the opposite end is in the unstable soil that may be cut out too readily by the river when at flood. At the site of the proposed intake the banks upon both sides and the bed of the river are in rock, and there will be no danger of the flood cutting around one end of the dam as was the case in 1903. From the new intake a canal will be cut a little distance away from the river but parallel thereto which will convey the water to the old canal at Los Hornos, where there will be a fall that will develop 200-H. P. that will be utilized by installation of dynamos the electricity from which will be conveyed by wire to Esperanza and other points in the delta wherever wanted for light or power.

Outside of the canal, between Esperanza and Cajeme a party of experienced orange growers, with groves at Pasadena and Duarte, in Southern California, have bought 1500 acres of land which they are preparing to plant in oranges. The land is being cleared and in the company's nursery at Esperanza the young orange sprouts are started already. There are several

intersecting each other at right angles in the center, making a cool, roomy space, nearly twenty feet across, with high ceilings that will be comfortable and attractive in the warmest weather. Upon either side of the corridors are the living rooms, including parlor, sitting room, several bed rooms, bath room, dining room, kitchen, pantries, etc. In the kitchen will be installed a large range, and all the latest improvements in culinary appliances. When completed, which will be within two or three weeks, the house will be as handsome and comfortable a home as can be wanted by anyone.

At Ontogota the Richardson Construction Company, has planned a comfortable and commodious hotel, construction of which will begin very shortly, and it will be completed in the fall in time to accommodate the crowd of visitors and land buyers expected through the coming winter. As Ontogota is the seat of the experiment station of the Richardson Construction Company, and as there are in the vicinity a number of very fine farms where successful agricultural operations have been conducted through a number of years, all visitors in